

FRS NEWS



"FRS-News" - under this name we provide you with the latest FRS-Holland news. We aim to optimize

the information towards our listeners. Not only you but also we as a radio station benefit from this. We can supply you with info regarding our previous broadcast(s) and inform about future plans. The latter will certainly mean (at least: we hope) more listeners tune in to future broadcasts as you are informed ahead of the broadcast! This Newsheet enables us to tell you what's going on. The advantage is we don't need to repeat the same info in each personal letter. Everyone dropping us a line receives this general Newsheet for free and in addition you receive some personal notes as well providing you took the trouble to include some personal notes in your letter as well. In other words: we'd love some personal info, criticism, comments etc. rather than

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome along in a new & completely restyled FRS News edition. Many of you who have already received previous editions, will hopefully like the new look! Perhaps a good moment for a potted history: this small newsletter was first published under the name FRS Newsletter in January 1993.

After 14 editions, the name was changed to FRS News. That was in 1997. The FRS Newsletter was continued for subscribers only and its content changed from covering FRS-Holland to emphasizing on Free Radio News. Where the FRS Newsletter ended, FRS News continued informing the listening audience with news from the Free Radio Service Holland. In the mean time the FRS Newsletter is no more.

After 7 years, the final edition # 39/40 was published in December 2003. What

is left is FRS News which will certainly continue as it is a very important means of communication between FRS-

Holland and you, the listener!

Now some information concerning FRS-Holland's programmes which are based on "a balance between music and information" being the well-known FRS philosophy which has proved to be very popular and successful over the past 20 years!

FRS-HOLLAND NEWS

Hello and welcome in this first 2004 edition of FRS News. A special hello to those who have been writing us for the very first time to FRS-Holland. Welcome along and hope this won't be your last letter to us. And of course a big hello to those many loyal long-time FRS-Holland enthusiasts. Yes, it took quite some time until you heard from us. Since our November & December broadcast activities, you haven't heard from us and we apologize for the long delay. However, we haven't stood still! We have been active on a few fronts and that's positive news. More about that later on. We hope the new photo-QSL cards make up a bit for the long waiting... Make sure you collect all four to complete this

FRS Studio Series! And please be sure next QSL will be yours within 6 weeks.

That's a promise!! Let's first look at the previous broadcasts. Let's go back in time to 2003...

FRS Broadcasting Activities

In contrast with the past two years, FRS was not to be heard in September. Instead FRS-Holland carried out a brief 40 min. show on 6211 kHz on Sun morning August 31st. That day it was exactly 23 years ago that FRS-Holland began its broadcasting life on the short wave bands. In the show Peter Verbruggen made the listening audience aware of this memorable fact. The broadcast was repeated in the early evening hours (17.00 UTC). Though the broadcasting power was relatively low, the 6211 signal was well received in different parts of Europe. In the evening hours strong reception was reported in London and Berlin well fitting in with our slogan "From London to Berlin...this is FRS-Holland playing 4 decades of music."

November 16th - on a good old 3rd Sunday - FRS-Holland celebrated its 23rd Birthday. That festive tm was also the start of a brandnew QSL series. A collector's item... In the mean time the November broadcast is already more than 5 months ago. It was a fantastic weekend. Three persons of the FRS crew being Bobby Speed, Mark Jones and Peter Verbruggen spent a weekend on the broadcasting location. Saturday

FRS-Holland Jingle CD

Early 2000 we introduced the FRS Jingle CD. Ever since numerous CDs were sent to people all over Europe. We received very positive and enthusiastic response... The FRS Jingle CD covers digitalized stuff covering almost 20 years of FRS jingling divided into eight sections. It starts with the early 80s and ends with the millennium set produced in 1999. 226 Jingles for only € 13.50 / £ 9.00 / USD 15.00. You can send the money cash to our maildrop: P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG in Herten, the Netherlands. A great asset to your jingle collection... the FRS Holland Jingle CD. In case you are interested, we do offer a special Jingle CD Info-sheet. Or order the Info via Email. Quick and easy.

Brandnew FRS QSL Series

Since November FRS-Holland is offering its listeners a brandnew and unique QSL-Series under the name "The FRS Studio Series". The station has carefully prepared a very unique series of different QSL-cards. Each QSL represents a different view of the main FRS-Holland recording studio. You can collect this complete FRS Studio Series consisting of 4 full colour photo QSLs by sending in reports for four consecutive times. This excellent series is a collector's item to any SW Free Radio enthusiast!

November 15th several tests were carried out after having erected the 48 mb aerial and installing the audio processing and broadcasting equipment. Tests were carried out on 6208 and 6210 kHz. Sun November 16th FRS took off at 06.30 UTC (hoping for Trans Atlantic reception) At 07.45 UTC the Birthday programming was started with non-stop music

and at 08.52 UTC "Peace" from Peter (not Verbruggen) marked the start of presented shows. Programming included Mark Jones, Frank Carson and Peter V. Two DX-Shows were aired, one SW section and one with News from around the World (including a comprehensive Radio Jackie feature). And: the late Joop ter Zee was not forgotten! Pss closed down after 7 hours on air at just over 13.30 UTC. Until 10.00 UTC propagation was satisfactory, after that unfortunately things got worse. And that is (a little bit) disappointing knowing how much efforts were put into that November broadcast.

It is crisp clear that great changes have been taking place in the SW free radio

world, especially in the past few years. It becomes evident when looking at the decreasing number of stations really concentrating on putting out decent programmes. *Pss worth while to listen to.* Reading out letters, including Free Radio news, including programme items. Stations with a kind of format.

"THE SW FREE RADIO SCENE HAS CHANGED"

The best years are far behind us... And there's not much hope that the good times will return. Even more dramatic is the decline of the number of persons responding to broadcasts. Most likely a great deal of those who were once listening each unday morning have turned their back to SW. Not interested any more because of lack of quality, perhaps there are new or more interesting hobbies replacing SW DXing, they have less time because of being married and having children. And not to forget the great number of new (commercial) radio stations in several European countries. Do the SW stations still fill a need? Mid November FRS received an Email from a disappointed listeners who was *pissed off* by the quality of

the current SW scene. Understandable but on the other hand: when turning your back to the scene, you forget you also "punish" those stations who care about their listeners. And that's a very worrying situation. One of FRS-Holland's jingles says: *"SW radio is two-way traffic"*. When less and less listeners take the trouble to write, it will become *one-way traffic*. And then it's perhaps too late. Dedicated programme-makers do need the response from the audience. Otherwise the enthusiasm to produce quality pss will disappear. Is that what the listener really wants? Your personal comments are more than welcome...

FRS-Holland December Broadcast

More FRS-Holland activity... that's what we really want. Following the November broadcast we planned our traditional X-Mas broadcast on Sun December 21st. Pss commenced at 09.00 UTC, close down was 4 hours later. There was a lot of interesting stuff to listen to. Signal quality was fine on

SOON NEW FRS JINGLES

6210 kHz. We were quite happy with the listeners' response.

When FRS started back in 1980, a complete jingle package was introduced. Eversince FRS has built up a good reputation when it comes to jingles. On a very regular basis new and fresh jingles were added to the existing ones. New production tools were used and Joop ter Zee and

Peter Verbruggen formed a good team producing literally hundreds of FRS jingles. The style of the jingles developed to a more professional one through the years. In the 2000 Summer Joop ter Zee died and from that moment almost no new material has been produced. But...this situation will change very soon. A set of new jingles is about to be introduced! Peter V. wrote a number of liners which are recorded by our American "home voice-over" Nolan. His productions will be mixed with sound effects and music beds to finish up the new 2004 set of FRS jingles. When the new

Do you have an E-mail address? Make sure to send us your Email address. By storing it in our comprehensive address book, you will be assured of receiving important updates/ the latest news on FRS-Holland.

FRS SOON ON 9290 with 100 kW

set is to be introduced is not for sure. Most likely sometime this upcoming Summer.

Following careful consideration, the decision has been taken to bring FRS-Holland back on the airwaves via the powerful Latvian 9290 kHz facility. No doubt it has been widely proven that this 31 metre band is the perfect way to reach a greater audience than we have ever done in the past. There are a few

reasons for trying this new outlet. One reason is the Dutch situation is still quite risky with the authorities being very keen on tracking down pirate radio stations. An obvious reason is that FRS-Holland wants to spread its wings

over brandnew areas reaching new and a greater number listeners. A better response should be very encouraging!! And the

good old listenership will be reached in the best-ever quality!! This does not mean that we won't use our own transmitting equipment anymore. But it certainly is a challenging and hopefully successful way of trying something new and different. A good-looking GSL (being part of the new series) will be issued for the upcoming broadcast taking place Whit Sunday May 30th 14.00-16.00 UTC FRS will return with quality programming and our philosophy remains "A Balance between Music and Information." member this is a

FRS-Holland, not just a station but a tradition